

[Translation]

Modernisation of Ordnance Factories

6076. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the ordnance factories;

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). Modernisation programme of Ordnance Factories is an on-going process and the steps taken include replacement and renewal of old plant and machinery augmentation of capacities in critical areas and introduction of 'state-of-the-art' technology in production.

(c) The total expenditure likely to be incurred in 1991-92 on this account including projects and Works is Rs. 341.18 crore. A provision has been made for Rs. 380 crores in the 1992-93 budget estimates.

[English]

Decline in Tea Prices

6077. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the price of tea in 1991 as compared to the previous year in five auction centres;

(b) whether the fall was sharper in South Indian Centres;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the tea industry to come out of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The overall decline in prices of tea during 1991 was a world wide phenomenon. As against the 7% decline in the prices in Indian auction centres, 18%, 28% and 9% was registered in Colombo, Jakarta and London respectively. Moreover the sharper decline in the price of South Indian Tea is no account of its higher availability.

(d) Government have been in constant touch with the new Republics of erstwhile USSR, which was the largest importer of Indian tea, to finalise purchase plan for tea from India for 1992 so as to provide adequate support for price line in Indian auctions.

Decline in Tea Exports

6078. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH;
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN;
SHRI PHOOLCHAND VERMA;
SHRI LALIT ORAON;
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea produced in the country and exported in each of the quarters during the last two years, till date, country-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;